

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education
Early Childhood Intervention & Education Branch
200 West Baltimore Street, 9th floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Assisting and Advising Maryland's Early Childhood Intervention and Education System of Services for Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families

SICC Meeting - GENERAL
Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
Columbia, Maryland
JULY 9, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

- Attendance:** Donna Njoku; Linda Ramsey; Kelli Nelson; Linda Vaughan; Paula Boykin; Brenda Hussey-Gardner; Joyce Pollard
- Excused:** Erin Stauder; Elizabeth Kelly; Margaret Berman; Curtisha Hopkins; Richard Sharp; Veronica Land Davis; Cascelia Burgess
- Guests:** Brian Phipps, Presenter; Laura Phipps; Miji Kim, University of MD; Laura Oswald, University of MD; Maryann Swann, Maryland School for the Deaf; Christine Hohn Lee, St. Mary's County Infants and Toddlers Program; Gloria Wicks, Baltimore City Infants and Toddlers Program; Rachel London, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council; Rosalyn Wiley; Yolanda Lowery, Baltimore City Head Start; Patty Jones, Harford County Infants and Toddlers Program; Christy Sampson-Kelly, University of MD; Rosemary King Johnston, Governor's Office for Children; Eileen Magan, University of MD; Zadock Cooper
- Staff:** Tom Stengel; Brian Morrison; Dan Szczepaniak; Sandy Miller; Nancy Vorobey; Pam Miller; Sheréa Makle

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Linda Ramsey convened the meeting at 2:10 p.m., and welcomed participants. Participants introduced themselves.

II. MINUTES REVIEW

Minutes from the previous general meeting were reviewed and adopted by members with the usual 48-hour hiatus.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

1. Ms. Ramsey reported the appointment of Joyce Pollard and Rosemary King Johnston to the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC).
2. Ms. Ramsey reported that a group of SICC members and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff met to develop new strategies and processes for SICC meetings and other related issues, including the following:

Meetings

a) **GENERAL MEETINGS**

- Beginning September 2009, the SICC will hold quarterly General meetings in lieu of rotating monthly General and Executive meeting. Tentative dates for SICC General meetings were set: *October 1, January 7, and April 2010.*
- SICC General meetings will remain the primary forum for SICC engagement in the work of Maryland's early intervention and education system of services for children birth through five.

b) **Meeting Formats/GENERAL vs. EXECUTIVE**

- c) from a bi-monthly 2-hour format to a quarterly 3-hour format, beginning October 2009. The general meetings would remain as the more formal setting in which the SICC assists and advises the MSDE. An agenda, with materials, reports, and presentations would be included.
- d) For executive meetings, shift from a bi-monthly 2-hour format to a quarterly 2-hour format, beginning September 2009. The executive meetings would serve as planning sessions for SICC executive committee to lead discussions on timely topics and craft agendas for upcoming general meetings.
- e) All meetings, with the possible exception of the SICC/LICC Joint Meeting, will be held in one central location. The current location is Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, MD. The executive committee may seek a new venue. One suggested location is the conference center at Loyola University also in Columbia, MD.
- f) For the SICC/LICC Joint Meeting or another general meeting, a regional location would be selected (e.g., southern, western, or eastern Maryland).

Executive Committee

- g) Current executive committee members are Kelli Nelson, Linda Ramsey, Paula Boykin, Donna Njoku, and Brenda Hussey-Gardner, along with Marcella Franczkowski and Sheréa Makle from MSDE.
- h) The executive committee will review and offer suggested updates for the SICC bylaws (last updated in 2002). Suggested updates and revisions will be brought before the SICC membership for voting.

Legislative Action

- i) The Legislative Advisory Committee, which currently includes Kelli Nelson and Paula Boykin, will appropriately represent the SICC on legislative issues, with guidance and input from the SICC and MSDE as needed. This would allow the advisory committee to act swiftly and appropriately on legislative issues affecting Maryland's Early Childhood Intervention and Education System of Services. When ample time is available, the advisory committee will bring issues before the SICC for review and feedback.

Ms. Ramsey invites the SICC to contact her with suggestions and recommendations.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marcella Franczkowski reported on the following:

Maryland's Extended IFSP Option

1. The Early Childhood Intervention and Education (ECIE) Branch had been in contact with the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and was optimistic about

OSEP funding Maryland's Extended IFSP Option under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

2. Edits had been made to the Extended IFSP Option Policies and Procedures document. Ms. Franczkowski provided an overview of the edits and invited SICC members and meeting participants to view the entire document online at www.mdecgateway.org and www.marylandpublicschools.org.
3. A policies and procedures Q&A document was developed as a result of the first process implementation meeting hosted by the ECIE Branch. Ms. Franczkowski provided an overview of the Q&A document and announced that the second process implementation was scheduled for July 22 with a focus on building local partnerships to support implementation of the Extended IFSP Option.
4. Ms. Franczkowski and Dr. Carol Ann Heath (Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services) planned to visit several jurisdictions to provide technical assistance on major issues related to the Extended IFSP Option.
5. Kelli Nelson reminded the MSDE that the name of the program, Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, should be included in all documents related to the option.
6. With the anticipated implementation of the Maryland Extended IFSP Option, Ms. Franczkowski stated that Maryland is moving closer to realizing a true birth-to-five system of services for young children with disabilities and their families. Ms. Franczkowski introduced the vision, mission, and goals of the ECIE branch, which are in line with realizing a birth-to-five system.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. Ms. Nelson announced that the Governor and State legislature are looking for ways to reduce the State budget. Ms. Nelson stated that the Maryland Department of Budget Management could possibly select the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program for State funding reductions. Ms. Nelson stated that if that happened, the SICC would be poised to advocate on behalf of the program.
2. Ms. Nelson announced SICC plans for a celebration to recognize State leaders, including Governor O'Malley, for their support of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program. Ms. Nelson assured the group that program funds would not be used for the event. Ms. Nelson spoke of the need to have families in early intervention programs across the State present at the event. Dr. Ed Feinberg suggested Ms. Nelson contact the Friends of the Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers Program for assistance with families. Ms. Nelson would share an exact date when confirmed.

VI. PRESENTATION TO THE SICC: My Life As a Sibling of an Individual with Disabilities, Brian Phipps, Anne Arundel County

1. Dr. Feinberg introduced the presenter, providing a brief overview of the progression of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, guiding legislation, and the work of local programs. Dr. Feinberg spoke of working with the Phipps family to coordinate and provide early intervention services for their young child, Brent.
2. The group welcomed Brian, a 2009 graduate of Broadneck High School in Anne Arundel County who planned to study international affairs at James Madison University in the fall.
3. Brian explained that his older brother Brent was born prematurely and weighed only one pound and six ounces at birth. Though his family was given a grim diagnosis of Brent's ability to grow and thrive, Brian explained that his mother began early to communicate with Brent using sign language and soon Brent and the family were participating in the local infants and toddlers program. Brian spoke of not initially recognizing that his brother was "different" from him and other children in their neighborhood, but the "switch" happened as his brother grew older and Brian seemed to become the big brother. Brian says he looks for teachable moments when his brother

makes mistakes and that he works hard to not only teach his brother but model for him important life lessons. Brian spoke of his immense love for his brother and the closeness of his entire family, even though his parents were divorced early in his and Brent's lives. Brian credits school teachers and his mother's strength and tenacity for Brent's ability to surpass expectations. Brian says he is proud of his brother's successes, including becoming a mechanic, passing difficult certification exams, and maintaining and modifying his "big truck". Brian concluded by saying his brother's disability helped shaped his own academic pursuits and decisions.

4. Brian's mom, Laurie, spoke of the need for her family to recognize and balance the needs of Brian and Brent and to facilitate sharing in each other's lives.

VII. PRESENTATION TO THE SICC: Assessing Infants and Toddlers Born Prematurely: Should We Correct Age?

1. Ms. Ramsey introduced Dr. Hussey Gardner and thanked her bringing forth the message of age adjusting for premature infants in the early intervention system.
2. Dr. Gardner stated that while the topic of age adjusting is important, her aim was not to considered right or wrong in terms of program policy, but rather to make the SICC aware of the available information and literature regarding when to evaluate premature children for early intervention services.
3. Tom Stengel and Patty Jones agreed that the issue of age adjusting was not a policy issue, but a training issue for program staff.
4. Because the meeting was running late and a number of participants had to leave, Dr. Gardner agreed to share her PowerPoint presentation via email and to give a brief follow-up at a later SICC general meeting.

Ms. Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.
